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DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL ECONOMY

RESEARCH IN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL STUDIES RELATING TO THE DOMINION OF CANADA

Canada has hitherto been behindhand in respect of interpretative and intensive studies of its economic and social achievements and problems, and the lack of these has been felt not only by professed students but also by men of affairs. There is here a task which falls properly within the sphere of the universities, especially now that, at the University of Toronto, a school of graduate studies is being built up. Impartial investigations of this nature are valuable in several ways. They form a permanent and historic record of economic and social developments, and they may also be of service to business men and to public authorities who require information relative to special questions with which they are concerned. To meet such needs the Department of Political Economy of the University of Toronto is seeking to establish a library of studies prepared by its members and students, and to make these available to all who are interested. As a step in this direction the present bulletin is published. It contains a list of investigations of the fur trade completed during the last year by students in Fourth Year Commerce and Political Science. Any of these will be gladly submitted on request to those who are interested, or extracts containing specific information which is desired will be made and forwarded. The Department specially invites the co-operation of business men in order to make the investigations, which are constantly being undertaken, of more direct value. It will give careful consideration to any subjects suggested to it as requiring investigation and, where feasible, will include these in the list of its researches.

Those who are interested in reading the results of investigations outlined in this bulletin, or who may wish to suggest subjects for investigation, should write to Professor R. M. MacIver, Department of Political Economy, or to W. J. Dunlop, Director, University Extension, University of Toronto, Toronto, Canada.

FUR TRADE

In order to stimulate independent research in economic subjects, the Department of Political Science has set apart in its curriculum one course in the Fourth Year in which stress is placed on methods of investigation. During the first year in which this plan has operated, students of the Commerce Course and of the Political Science course have worked on the general subject of the Fur Trade in North America. Several reasons exist for the choice of this subject. In the first place, probably no other industry has played such an important part in the economic history of Canada. In the second place, there was available sufficient material to warrant a study of this character. Finally, the subject has, by virtue of its long history, gone through a large number of changes. Moreover, the recent changes have been the most marked. The field was promising, therefore, from the standpoint of investigation.

The authors, subjects, table of contents and a very brief statement as to the general character of the work follows. There remains the pleasant duty of thanking the large number of people in the Fur Trade who have contributed toward the preparation of the theses. In most cases definite acknowledgment is made in the work. But specific mention should be made of the Hudson Bay Company, of the Northern Trading Company, and of the Natural Resources Intelligence Service at Ottawa. There are a large number of others to whom a general statement of thanks must be made.

Richardson, A. L. A. "THE PERSONNEL OF THE FUR TRADE." Table of contents: The Early Fur Trade and Formation of the Hudson Bay Company. Unsuitable Character of the early H.B. C.'s Servants. The Failure to Develop a Suitable Personnel. The Effect of the "Conquest of Canada" on the Trade; and the H.B.C. Subsequent Policy. The North West Company and its Personnel. The N.W.C. and its Personnel (Continued). Amalgamation of the H.B.C. and the N.W.C. The Deed Poll of 1821. The New Company. The Indians and their Importance in the Trade. The Personnel and the Reorganized Trade. Life in the Service—and Some of the Men it Produced. The Company again Reorganized—and its Result. Conclusion. Bibliography.

This thesis traces the changes in the personnel of the trade incidental to various changes in the character of the trade. It notes particularly the change which took place in the latter half of the last century and the beginning of the present century, and the general trend of personnel policy in the larger companies.

Keast, R. W. "FUR TRADE FARMING." Introduction. The Silver Fox. The History of Silver Fox Ranching. The Ranch: Its Location and Construction. Selection of Stock. The Breeding of Foxes. The Feeding of Foxes. Sanitation and Disease. Methods of Fox-Ownership. The Future of Fox Farming. Beaver Farming. The Skunk. Mink Farming. Muskrat Farming. Operations of the American Government in Alaska. Conclusion. Appendix. The Canadian Silver Fox Breeders' Association. Legislation Relative to Fur Bearing Animals in Captivity.

Discusses the general basic factors in the growth and development of fur farming.

Dougall, H. E. "GOVERNMENT REGULATION OF THE FUR TRADE." Table of Contents: Regulation: its Purpose and Problems. Regulation in the Maritimes. Regulation in Ontario. Regulation in Quebec. Regulation in the

Prairie Provinces and British Columbia. Regulation in the Northwest Territories and the Yukon. Regulation re Fur-Farming. Regulation in the U.S.A. Conclusion: Criticisms and Recommendations.

Traces the trend and development of fur trade regulation in North America with special reference to Canada.

Cowdy, D. M. "THE PRODUCTION OF FURS." Table of Contents: Historical Sketch. Chief Fur Bearers. Muskrat—Fox Family—Beaver. Mink—Marten—Lynx—Otter. Skunk—Wolf—Ermine—Fisher. Bears—Wolverene—Fur Seal. Factors Influencing Production. Comparative Statistics. Conclusion. Appendix: Bibliography. Map Showing Distribution of Fur Bearers.

Discusses the relative importance of factors affecting the supply of furs and attempts a conclusion as to the general trend of production.

Snyder, S. A. "THE MANUFACTURE OF FURS, AND RELATED INDUSTRIES." Table of Contents: Introduction and Early History of Wearing of Fur Garments. Organization Necessary for Harvesting of Furs. Recent Changes in Organization of Fur Companies. The Fur Markets of the World. Extent of Trade in Raw Furs. The Dressing of Furs. The Dyeing of Furs. The Manufacture of the Fur Garment. Related Industries. Conclusion.

Discusses particularly the change which has taken place in North America during and since the war in the numerous related industries.

Salter, P. E. "INDEX TO PRICES OF FURS." Table of Contents: Early History. After the Discovery of America. Fur Prices in General. Quality of Furs and its Effect on Prices. Utility of Furs and Demand for them. A Statistical Investigation. Lynx, Silver Fox, Red Fox. Marten and Mink. The Fisher. The Muskrat. Wolf and Wolverine. Skunk. Land Otter. Raccoon. Combined Index. Fur Prices in Canada. Conclusions.

An analysis, largely statistical, of the important factors determining fluctuations in the prices of furs over long run and short run periods.

Littlejohn, R. H. "THE FUR TRADE OF OTHER COUNTRIES." Table of Contents: Introduction. Russia. China. Japan. Europe: Great Britain, France, Germany, Holland. Australia. South America. Africa. Iceland and Greenland. Conclusion.

Attempts to analyze the various significant factors affecting the fur trade in other countries especially since the war.

Simpson, G. H. D. "THE SALES ORGANIZATION OF THE FUR TRADE." Table of Contents: Early Eurasia. Discovery of America as a Fur Producer. America Becomes a Consumer. European Markets. The Present Fur Industry in America. Conclusion.

Stresses especially the recent changes in types of sales organization and in the general development following the growing importance of the trade in North America. Discusses with considerable detail the various types of sales organization.

On the historical side work has been done in separate fields. The treatment in each case has been largely chronological.

DWORKIN, B. The Fur Trade prior to 1627.
VENNELS, G. The Fur Trade 1627-1663.
SPRAGGE, W. The Fur Trade 1663-1713.
BOWMAN, C. The Fur Trade 1713-1763.
FLEMING, R. H. The Fur Trade 1763-1821.
BLACK, R. T. The Fur Trade 1821-1869.
BOOTH, A. The Fur Trade 1869-1900.
HARRIS, W. The Fur Trade since 1900.